

marked-up copy of the amended claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

Note that all claims currently pending in this application have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

19. (Amended) A method of producing a solar cell, comprising:

the step of forming a separation layer on a substrate and forming a semiconductor thin film having a semiconductor layer of a first conductivity type and a semiconductor layer of a second conductivity type on the separation layer;

the step of bonding a light-transmitting flexible film onto the semiconductor thin film with a light-transmitting adhesive;

the step of securing an edge of the flexible film extending outwardly from the substrate to a thin film support member having a curved surface;

the step of rotating the thin film support member while the flexible film is kept in contact with the curved surface of the thin film support member, thereby peeling the semiconductor thin film away from the substrate; and

the step of forming an electrode on a back surface of the semiconductor thin film thus peeled.

20. Cancelled.

21. (Amended) A method of producing a solar cell, comprising:

the step of forming a separation layer on a substrate and forming a semiconductor thin film of a first conductivity type on the separation layer;

the step of bonding a light-transmitting flexible film onto the semiconductor thin film of the first conductivity type with a light-transmitting adhesive;
the step of securing an edge of the flexible film extending outwardly from the substrate to a thin film support member having a curved surface;
the step of rotating the thin film support member while the flexible film is kept in contact with the curved surface of the thin film support member, thereby peeling the semiconductor thin film of the first conductivity type away from the substrate;
the step of forming a semiconductor thin film of a second conductivity type on a back surface of the first semiconductor thin film thus peeled; and
the step of forming an electrode on the semiconductor thin film of the second conductivity type.

22. Cancelled.

27. (Amended) A method of producing a solar cell, comprising:
the step of forming a separation layer on a substrate and forming a semiconductor thin film having a first semiconductor layer of a first conductivity type and a second semiconductor layer of a second conductivity type on the separation layer;
the step of bonding an electroconductive flexible film onto the semiconductor thin film with an electroconductive adhesive;
the step of securing an edge of the flexible film extending outwardly from the substrate to a thin film support member having a curved surface;

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the step of rotating the thin film support member while the flexible film is kept in contact with the curved surface of the thin film support member, thereby peeling the semiconductor thin film away from the substrate; and

the step of forming an electrode on a back surface of the semiconductor thin film thus peeled.

28. Cancelled.

29. (Unamended From Previous Version) The method according to Claim 27, wherein the peeling is carried out while holding the electroconductive film by an electromagnet.

30. (Amended) A method of producing a solar cell, comprising:
the step of forming a separation layer on a substrate and forming a semiconductor thin film on the separation layer;
the step of bonding a flexible film onto the semiconductor thin film with an adhesive;

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the step of securing an edge of the flexible film extending outwardly from the substrate to a thin film support member having a curved surface;

the step of rotating the thin film support member while the flexible film is kept in contact with the curved surface of the thin film support member, thereby peeling the semiconductor thin film away from the substrate; and